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COUNTRY

Germany (Russian Zone)

DATE DISTR. 28 April 1948

SUBJECT

Food Situation in the Russian Zone

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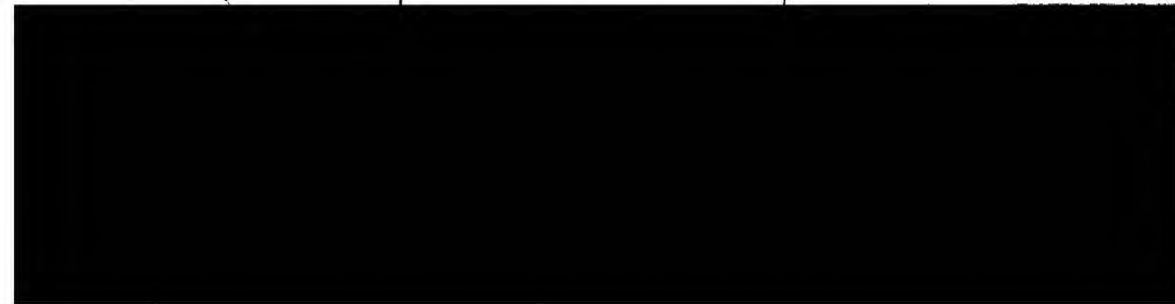
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SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO

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1. The food situation in the Russian zone was the subject of a conference in Berlin between section chiefs of the Central Administrations of Trade and Supply and Industry and SMA officials. The chief of the planning section of the Trade and Supply Division of SMA, Komov, gave the following survey of the present outlook:

Allotments of food, especially starch and sugar, for industrial use will have to be reduced in order to meet requirements for the population and for export. The potato ration can be maintained only by using seed potatoes. 200,000 tons must be imported from Poland and Denmark; if this is not possible, potato starch products will be substituted for potatoes. Potato deliveries to the western zones are to be maintained.

2. Fats are available for 100 days. Sugar and marmalade will be substituted for the remaining 20 days. Meat is available for 30-40 days; the deficit will be met by imports of fish from Norway or by substituting eggs, sugar, and marmalade. There is a deficit of 100,000 tons in bread grains. 120,000 tons were to be exported, of which 80,000 tons have actually been shipped; SMA miscalculated; no further exports will be possible. The last grain will be ground by the end of June, reserves of flour at mills and bakeries will be consumed by the end of July; the German experts are asked for suggestions as to how to bridge the gap till the new harvest.

3. Sugar is plentiful: 50,000 tons have been exported and 50,000 additional tons will be shipped. The sugar ration is guaranteed and a reserve of 50,000 tons is available. Marmalade is abundant and available as a substitute for short items. Starch production was 15,000 tons, of which one third has been exported. The remainder will be used to meet the potato and bread deficit.

All food commitments for the Soviet Army and other Russian agencies must be met regardless of all difficulties.

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Comment: It is noteworthy that Komov made no remarks about large numbers of consumers arriving from western Germany, which is the excuse given by Komov's chief, J. Drossel, in the AUSA interview published in the Russian newspaper Pravda, 28 March.

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